

Remarks

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the objection and rejections and further examination are requested.

The specification has been reviewed and revised to make a number of editorial revisions thereto. A substitute specification including the revisions has been prepared and is submitted herewith. No new matter has been added by the revisions.

Claims 4-10 and 15-21 have been objected to as containing minor informalities. Specifically, the objection indicates that claims 4 and 15 contain unclear language. Claims 4 and 15 have been amended so as to address this informality. As a result, withdrawal of the objection to the claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-12, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and 34 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the rejection indicates that independent claims 1, 22 and 24 contain unclear language. Claims 1, 22 and 24 have been amended so as to address this rejection. As a result, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

Claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yukawa (US 2005/0163018) in view of Murakawa (JP 2001-281432). Claims 14, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Yukawa in view of Murakawa and further in view of Ueyama (US 2005/0141391).

Claims 1-12, 15-22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32 and 34 have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. The Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for this indication of allowable subject matter.

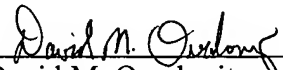
In order to expedite prosecution of the application, allowable claim 15 has been amended so as to include the limitations of claim 13 and rejected claims 13, 14, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33 and 35 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter contained therein.

In addition, claims 1, 2, 4-10, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 28 and 30 have been amended to make a number of editorial revisions thereto. These revisions have been made to place the claims in better U.S. form. None of the amendments have been made to narrow the scope of protection of the claims, or to address issues related to patentability, and therefore, these amendments should not be construed as limiting the scope of equivalents of the claimed features offered by the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that there are issues remaining which must be resolved before allowance of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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